

# House File 589 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 589

BY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 88)

## A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act relating to the use of unmanned aerial vehicles, and
- 2 providing penalties.
- 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 708.11, subsection 1, paragraph b, Code  
2 2017, is amended to read as follows:

3 *b. "Course of conduct"* means repeatedly maintaining a visual  
4 or physical proximity to a person without legitimate purpose or  
5 repeatedly conveying oral or written threats, threats implied  
6 by conduct, or a combination thereof, directed at or toward a  
7 person. "Course of conduct" includes the use of an unmanned  
8 aerial vehicle, as defined in section 708C.1, to maintain  
9 visual or physical proximity to a person as provided in this  
10 paragraph.

11 Sec. 2. Section 708A.1, subsection 1, Code 2017, is amended  
12 to read as follows:

13 1. *"Material support or resources"* means knowingly assisting  
14 or providing money, financial securities, financial services,  
15 lodging, training, safe houses, false documentation or  
16 identification, communication equipment, facilities, weapons,  
17 lethal substances, explosives, personnel, transportation,  
18 unmanned aerial vehicles, and other physical assets, except  
19 medicine or religious materials, for the purpose of assisting a  
20 person in the commission of an act of terrorism.

21 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 708C.1 Use of unmanned aerial vehicle  
22 — exceptions — penalty.

23 1. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise  
24 requires:

25 *a. "Agency"* means a state agency or political subdivision of  
26 this state or any person acting on behalf of a state agency or  
27 political subdivision.

28 *b. "Dangerous weapon"* includes an instrument or device  
29 designed for causing damage to property.

30 *c. "Image"* means any capturing of sound waves, thermal,  
31 infrared, ultraviolet, visible light, or other electromagnetic  
32 wave, odor, or other conditions existing on or about real  
33 property in this state or a person located on that property.

34 *d. "Unmanned aerial vehicle"* means an aircraft that is  
35 operated without the possibility of direct human intervention

1 from within or on the aircraft.

2     2. *Agencies.*

3     a. Except as provided in this paragraph "a", an agency shall  
4 not use an unmanned aerial vehicle to capture an image or to  
5 receive or disclose an image acquired through the use of an  
6 unmanned aerial vehicle.

7     (1) An agency may use an unmanned aerial vehicle to capture  
8 an image or to receive or disclose an image acquired through  
9 the use of an unmanned aerial vehicle in connection with a  
10 search warrant that has been issued under the conditions of  
11 section 808.2 authorizing the use on private property.

12     (2) An agency may use an unmanned aerial vehicle without  
13 preserving any images under the following circumstances:

14     (a) When searching for a suspect who committed a crime.

15     (b) When supporting the tactical operation of another  
16 agency.

17     (c) For crowd monitoring at events.

18     (3) (a) An agency may use an unmanned aerial vehicle if an  
19 emergency exists based on a reasonable belief that an imminent  
20 threat exists to the life or safety of a person and within  
21 forty-eight hours of the emergency use a supervisory official  
22 of the agency files a sworn statement with the district court  
23 detailing the grounds for using the unmanned aerial vehicle in  
24 the emergency.

25     (b) If the supervisory official fails to file the sworn  
26 statement as required by this subparagraph (3), the supervisory  
27 official shall be removed from any future involvement with the  
28 agency's use of an unmanned aerial vehicle, and the agency  
29 shall be required to obtain approval from the applicable  
30 supervisory body under paragraph "c" prior to any future use of  
31 an unmanned aerial vehicle by the agency.

32     (4) An agency may use an unmanned aerial vehicle on public  
33 property.

34     b. An agency shall not archive data captured or received  
35 through the use of an unmanned aerial vehicle unless the data

1 was captured or received during an operation in conjunction  
2 with a search warrant or during the existence of an emergency  
3 under paragraph "a", subparagraph (3), but only for forty-eight  
4 hours except upon entry of a district court order requiring the  
5 archiving of the data for more than forty-eight hours.

6     *c.* The acquisition of an unmanned aerial vehicle by a  
7 state agency shall be approved by the general assembly prior  
8 to such an acquisition. The acquisition of an unmanned aerial  
9 vehicle at the county, city, or local government level shall be  
10 approved by the county board of supervisors, city council, or  
11 other supervisory legislative body that oversees the political  
12 subdivision.

13     *d.* An agency shall adopt best practices to ensure that  
14 unauthorized access to an unmanned aerial vehicle or images  
15 captured or received by the unmanned aerial vehicle does not  
16 occur.

17     3. *Persons.*

18     *a.* A person shall not use an unmanned aerial vehicle to  
19 capture an image of an individual or private property with  
20 the intent to conduct surveillance, or to stalk, follow, or  
21 intimidate another person.

22     *b.* A person may use an unmanned aerial vehicle to capture  
23 or receive an image of an individual if the individual is on  
24 public property, or the person has received permission from the  
25 individual to capture or receive such an image.

26     *c.* A person shall not use an unmanned aerial vehicle  
27 equipped with an instrument that is capable of doing any of the  
28 following unless the unmanned aerial vehicle is used over the  
29 real property owned by the person or the person has permission  
30 from the owner or a tenant of the real property to use the  
31 unmanned aerial vehicle over the real property:

- 32         (1) Emitting a peculiar sound or excessive noise.  
33         (2) Spraying a liquid or gas.  
34         (3) Dropping an object.

35     4. *Accredited postsecondary institutions.* An accredited

1 postsecondary institution, other than a special security  
2 officer or a security agency employed by or otherwise connected  
3 with the institution, may use an unmanned aerial vehicle to  
4 capture or receive an image for research purposes, or to retain  
5 or distribute such an image.

6 5. An unmanned aerial vehicle shall not be equipped with a  
7 dangerous weapon.

8 6. This section does not apply to an operation, exercise,  
9 or mission of any branch of the United States military, or the  
10 Iowa national guard.

11 7. *a.* A person who violates this section commits an  
12 aggravated misdemeanor.

13 *b.* A person who violates this section and causes serious  
14 injury to another person commits a class "D" felony.

15 *c.* A person who violates this section and causes death to  
16 another person commits a class "C" felony.

17 8. *a.* On June 30, 2018, and every June 30 thereafter, each  
18 state agency and each political subdivision, if required to  
19 do so by the supervising legislative body of the political  
20 subdivision, that uses an unmanned aerial vehicle shall provide  
21 the department of public safety with the following information:

22 (1) The number of instances in which an unmanned aerial  
23 vehicle was used by the agency and the purpose of each use.

24 (2) The number of crime investigations aided by the use of  
25 an unmanned aerial vehicle and a description of how the use of  
26 an unmanned aerial vehicle aided each investigation.

27 (3) The number of instances an unmanned aerial vehicle was  
28 used for purposes other than in a criminal investigation and a  
29 description of how the use of the unmanned aerial vehicle aided  
30 in that purpose.

31 (4) The annual cost of the unmanned aerial vehicle program  
32 of the agency.

33 *b.* The department of public safety shall compile the  
34 information provided by the agencies under this subsection and  
35 present a report detailing the use of unmanned aerial vehicles

1 to the legislative standing committees on government oversight  
2 by January 15, 2019, and every January 15 thereafter.

3 Sec. 4. Section 717A.1, Code 2017, is amended by adding the  
4 following new subsections:

5 NEW SUBSECTION. 6A. "*Control*" includes the actions of a  
6 person using an unmanned aerial vehicle.

7 NEW SUBSECTION. 10A. "*Enter*" includes the actions of a  
8 person using an unmanned aerial vehicle.

9 NEW SUBSECTION. 14. "*Unmanned aerial vehicle*" means the  
10 same as defined in section 708C.1.

11 EXPLANATION

12 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
13 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

14 This bill relates to the use of unmanned aerial vehicles by  
15 governmental agencies and other persons.

16 The bill defines "unmanned aerial vehicle" to mean an  
17 aircraft that is operated without the possibility of direct  
18 human intervention from within or on the aircraft.

19 The bill defines "image" to mean any capturing of sound  
20 waves, thermal, infrared, ultraviolet, visible light, or other  
21 electromagnetic wave, odor, or other conditions existing on or  
22 about real property in this state or a person located on that  
23 property.

24 The bill prohibits a governmental agency from using an  
25 unmanned aerial vehicle to capture an image or to receive or  
26 disclose an image acquired through the use of an unmanned  
27 aerial vehicle unless used under the following circumstances:  
28 the use is in connection with a search warrant, the use is  
29 related to the search for a criminal suspect, to provide  
30 support to another tactical operation, or for crowd monitoring,  
31 the use is based upon a reasonable belief that an emergency  
32 exists that threatens the life or safety of a person, or the  
33 use is on public property.

34 If a governmental agency uses an unmanned aerial vehicle  
35 in an emergency, the bill requires the supervisory official

1 of such an agency to file a sworn statement with the court  
2 detailing the grounds for using the unmanned aerial vehicle in  
3 the emergency within 48 hours of its use. The bill specifies  
4 that if the supervisory official fails to file the sworn  
5 statement, the supervisory official is barred from future  
6 involvement with the agency's use of unmanned aerial vehicles,  
7 and the agency must seek approval from the applicable governing  
8 body for any future use of an unmanned aerial vehicle.

9 The bill prohibits a governmental agency from archiving data  
10 captured or received through the use of an unmanned aerial  
11 vehicle unless the data is captured or received in connection  
12 with a search warrant, or during an emergency, but only for  
13 48 hours except upon entry of a court order requiring the  
14 archiving of the data for more than 48 hours.

15 The bill requires that an unmanned aerial vehicle purchased  
16 by a state agency be approved by the general assembly prior to  
17 such an acquisition. The acquisition of an unmanned aerial  
18 vehicle at the county, city, or local government level shall  
19 be approved by the board of supervisors, city council, or  
20 other supervisory legislative body that oversees the political  
21 subdivision.

22 The bill prohibits a person from using an unmanned aerial  
23 vehicle to capture an image of an individual or private  
24 property with the intent to conduct surveillance, or to stalk,  
25 follow, or intimidate another person. The bill allows a person  
26 using an unmanned aerial vehicle to capture an image of an  
27 individual if the individual is on public property or the  
28 person has received permission from the individual to capture  
29 or receive such an image.

30 The bill prohibits a person from using an unmanned aerial  
31 vehicle equipped with an instrument that is capable of emitting  
32 a peculiar sound or excessive noise, spraying a liquid or gas,  
33 or dropping an object. The bill allows an unmanned aerial  
34 vehicle to be equipped with such instruments if the person uses  
35 the unmanned aerial vehicle over the real property owned by the

1 person or the person has permission from the owner or tenant of  
2 the real property to use an unmanned aerial vehicle equipped  
3 with such instruments.

4 The bill allows an accredited postsecondary institution,  
5 other than a special security officer or security agency  
6 employed by or otherwise connected with the institution, to use  
7 an unmanned aerial vehicle to capture or receive an image for  
8 research purposes, or to retain or distribute such an image.

9 The bill prohibits an unmanned aerial vehicle from being  
10 equipped with a dangerous weapon. The bill defines "dangerous  
11 weapon" to mean the same as defined in Code section 702.7,  
12 but also includes an instrument or device designed to damage  
13 property.

14 The bill does not apply to an operation, exercise, or mission  
15 of any branch of the United States military, or the Iowa  
16 national guard.

17 Under the bill, each state agency and each political  
18 subdivision, if required to do so by the supervising  
19 legislative body of the political subdivision, that uses an  
20 unmanned aerial vehicle shall provide information related to  
21 the use of the unmanned aerial vehicle to the department of  
22 public safety by June 30, 2018, and every June 30 thereafter.  
23 The bill also requires the department of public safety to  
24 compile such information and file a report to the standing  
25 committees on government oversight by January 15, 2019, and  
26 every January 15 thereafter.

27 A person who violates the bill commits an aggravated  
28 misdemeanor. If the violation causes serious injury the person  
29 commits a class "D" felony, and if the violation causes death  
30 the person commits a class "C" felony.

31 An aggravated misdemeanor is punishable by confinement for  
32 no more than two years and a fine of at least \$625 but not more  
33 than \$6,250. A class "D" felony is punishable by confinement  
34 for no more than five years and a fine of at least \$750 but  
35 not more than \$7,500. A class "C" felony is punishable by



1 confinement for no more than 10 years and a fine of at least  
2 \$1,000 but not more than \$10,000.

3 In addition, the bill specifies that a "course of conduct"  
4 without a legitimate purpose includes the use of an unmanned  
5 aerial vehicle for purposes of proving the criminal offense of  
6 stalking.

7 The bill also specifies that a person who knowingly assists  
8 in providing an unmanned aerial vehicle to a person who commits  
9 or attempts to commit terrorism is guilty of soliciting or  
10 providing material support or resources for terrorism in  
11 violation of Code section 708A.4.

12 The bill further provides, for purposes of violations  
13 under Code chapter 717A (offenses relating to agricultural  
14 production), a person "controls" or "enters" an animal facility  
15 or a crop operation property if the actions of the person  
16 include the use of an unmanned aerial vehicle.